

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the August 23, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8-11, and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,131,311 (hereinafter Murakami) in view of Kotani, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0126094 (hereinafter Kotani). The Examiner rejected claims 5-7 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Murakami in view of Kotani and further in view of Klappert et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,942,551 (hereinafter Klappert). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants have enclosed herewith a verified English translation of the Priority Document JP 2003-006114 to perfect the claim for priority in accordance with 37 C. F. R. § 1.451. Applicants respectfully submit that the Kotani reference has a filing date of July 22, 2003, which is after the January 14, 2003 priority date of the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) should be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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